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SECRET

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

JORDAN: Syrian troops have pulled out of the north.
(Page 1)

CAMBODIA: Vietnamese Communist activity apparently
is increasing in Battambang Province. (Page 5)

USSR: Moscow expects the largest grain crop in its
history this year. (Page 6)

BULGARIA: Student exchange agreement signed with
the US. (Page 7)

COMMUNIST CHINA: Senior civilian bureaucrats are
returning to duty in central government organs.
(Page 8)

COMMUNIST CHINA: Coal production may reach an all-
time high this year. (Page 9)



25X1

LIBYA: Unrest in army units (Page 11)

BELGIUM: NATO burden-sharing (Page 12)

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION: ICAO meeting (Page 12)

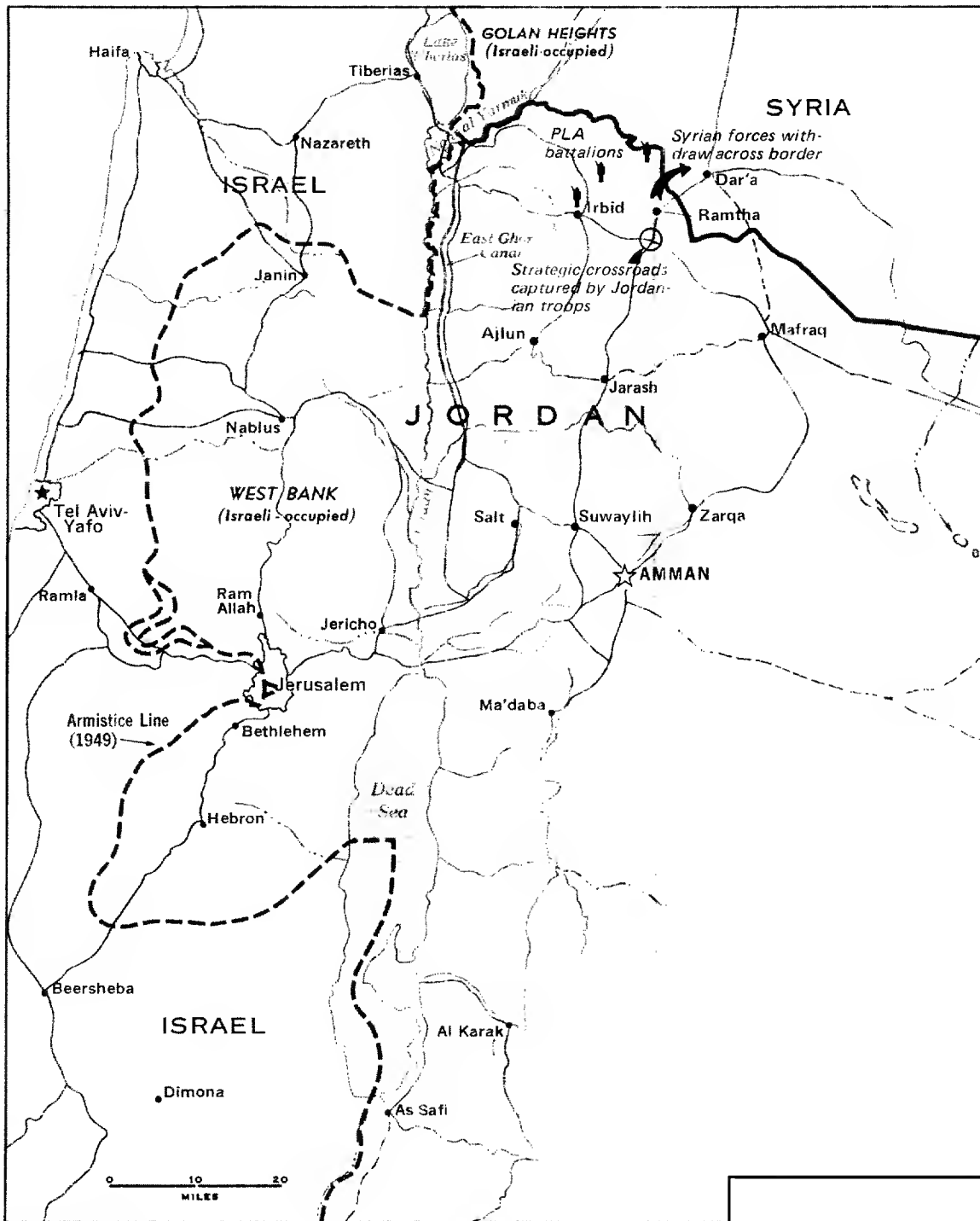
WEST GERMANY: Labor federation meetings (Page 13)

COLOMBIA: Rojas returns (Page 13)

SECRET

SECRET

JORDAN: Current Situation



550082 9-70 CIA

25X1

SECRET

25X1 [JORDAN: Syrian troops have pulled out of the north, although Syrian-backed fedayeen units continue to battle Jordanian forces.

25X1 [Syrian forces have now withdrawn across the border; they remain close enough to re-enter swiftly if their fedayeen units are hard pressed, however.

25X1 [The Syrians have been replaced in the Irbid area, however, by the Syrian-backed Hittin Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), under the command of the Palestine Liberation Organization.]

25X1 The Jordanians apparently did not assault the Syrian positions in the Irbid-Ramtha area, but brought artillery and tank fire to bear on them to good effect, and also carried out air strikes.]

25X1 Iraqi activity has been minimal, and seems to be precautionary.]

25X1 Iraq had promised not to let the Syrians through to the Mafrag area. [if Syria did not move up reinforcements and if Iraq did not intervene, [Jordan could handle the]

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

SECRET

[situation. Governor General Majali announced yesterday that Jordanian troops captured the Ramtha-Irbid-Mafrag crossroads, the key to the supply route from Syria, and were in control of Zarqa.

Syrian withdrawal seems to have been only partially due to lack of success in the fighting. Syria was probably extremely nervous over the possibility of US or Israeli intervention. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Syrians may have realized, too, that they could not keep up the transparent fiction that their troops were only Palestinian; by replacing regular troops with a PLA unit, they may be hoping to legitimize their intervention and still prevent an all-out victory against the fedayeen.

In Amman, meanwhile, the army continued to conduct clearing operations. [REDACTED] the army has discovered 300 fedayeen strongpoints, and has taken some 8,000 prisoners--a figure which probably includes a large number of noncombatant fedayeen sympathizers. Army operations yesterday concentrated on a refugee camp north of the city and on an area near the US Embassy. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the number of casualties appears to be much lower than press reports suggest.

An "agreement" was announced over Amman radio yesterday morning by King Husyan and Salah Khalaf, number two man in the PLO, who had been captured by the army several days ago. As read by the King--Khalaf's version was somewhat more pro-fedayeen--the terms would represent virtually total victory for the government: the fedayeen are to stay at the border to fight the Israelis, while the army has the right to be wherever it is needed; "on this basis," the army will be ordered to take up its "usual positions"--presumably outside the city--while the fedayeen are to transfer their bases from]

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

SECRET

SECRET

[the towns and villages to the frontier; the PLO is to function as the sole political and military representative of the Palestinians; all laws and regulations of the state are to apply in full to the fedayeen. The King reaffirmed that he and the army had no intention of liquidating the fedayeen movement. There was no mention of a cease-fire.

According to press reports, the agreement was rejected by Yasir Arafat and by Cairo officials of the PLO, who claimed that Khalaf and three other captured PLO leaders had no authority to enter into such an agreement. All four have now been released by the King.

A four-man conciliation committee sent to Amman by Arab leaders returned to Cairo last night after stopping off in Damascus to talk with Syrian President Atasi. They were accompanied by the four PLO leaders released by the King. The Cairo press has reported that the Arab kings and presidents resumed their discussion last night and planned to meet again today; Sudanese President Numayri, chairman of the mediating committee, was quoted by the press as saying that his delegation "blessed the four-point agreement and appealed to both sides of the conflict to cease hostilities." Inasmuch as the agreement so totally support's King Husayn's position, its approval by the delegation is somewhat surprising.

There has been no official word on the hostages, but [redacted] was informed on 22 September by a "good source" that all were safe. The source said that the hostages had been removed from Amman before the outbreak of fighting and were being held elsewhere in Jordan in groups of about six, apparently under close guard by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. According to press reports, the commandos have announced that the captives are being held in the "liberated zone" of north Jordan. The sources said that all of the hostages were "believed" to be safe. [redacted] (Map)]

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24 Sep 70

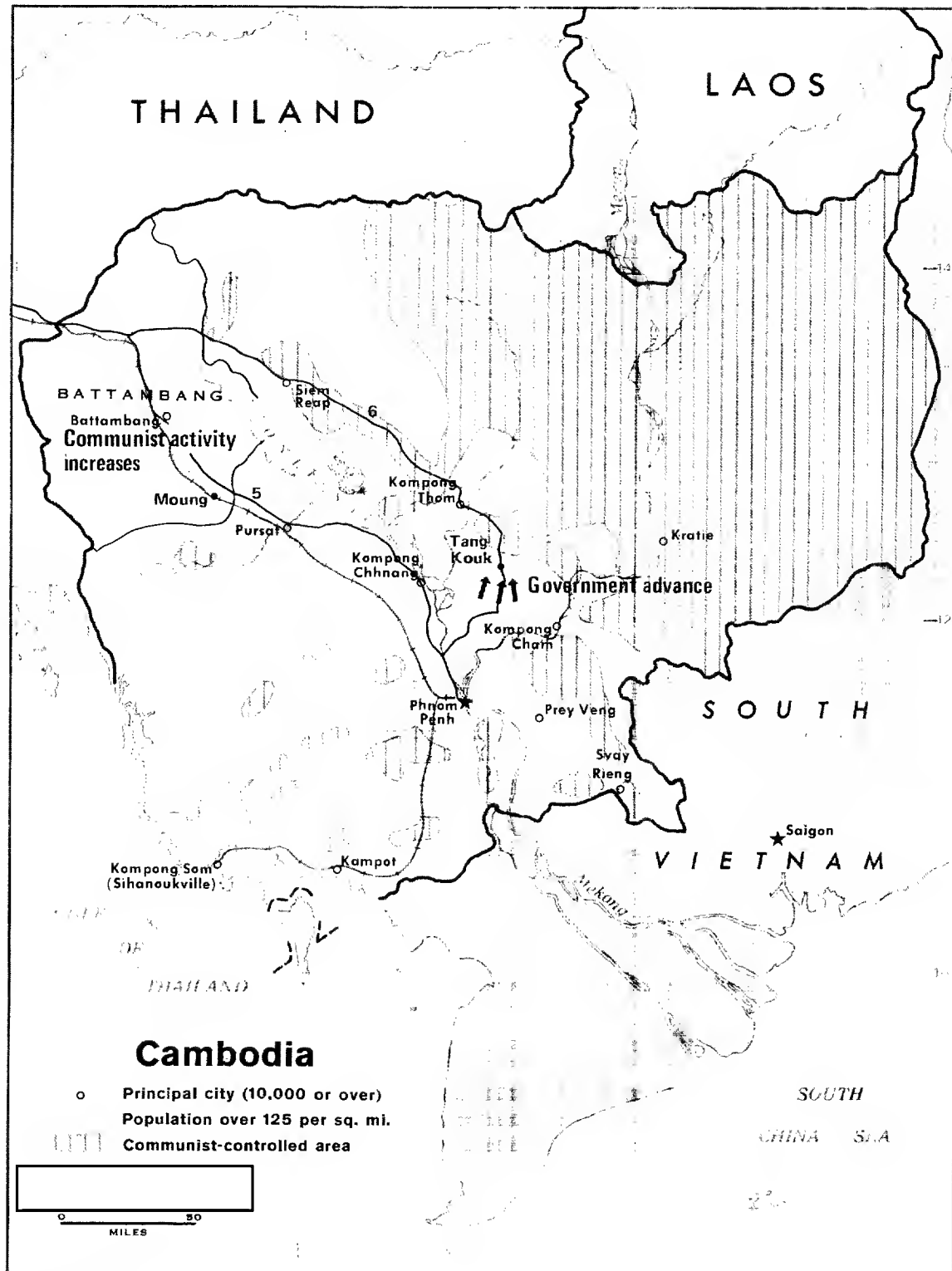
Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

SECRET

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Current Situation



550081 9-70 CIA

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SECRET

CAMBODIA: Vietnamese Communist activity apparently is increasing in Battambang Province.

25X1

[redacted] the Communists have been infiltrating outlying areas of the hitherto quiet province since early September, propagandizing and requisitioning supplies. The government's pre-occupation with defending Battambang city has facilitated the Communist effort. Communist forces have been reported operating as close as three miles to the railway town of MOUNG, on Route 5, and rumors that they intend to attack the town soon have prompted residents to flee. Thus far, however, the only significant enemy attacks in the province have occurred in an area between 20 and 30 miles northeast of Battambang city.

The government drive to take Tang Kouk village, southeast of Kompong Thom, is still being slowed by sporadic Communist harassing fire. The column has now been reorganized into four task forces. Three of them, one on Route 6 and one to either flank, are advancing along an almost four-mile wide front. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

[redacted] (Map)

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

5

SECRET

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USSR: Moscow expects to harvest the largest grain crop in its history this year.

Soviet Minister of Agriculture V. Matskevitch has predicted a harvest of "about 180 million tons of grain." He hedged his forecast with the statement that the weather during the next two weeks of the harvest "will be critical" to the final results. Less than 80 percent of the total grain crop had been threshed by mid-September, compared with about 90 percent usually threshed by that date. An early onset of winter weather, therefore, could result in major harvest losses. Harvesting weather has improved in the past week, however, and the outlook is for continued favorable weather throughout this week.

A grain harvest of 180 million tons would probably produce a net usable output of 145-150 million tons, 10-15 percent above the average level achieved in 1966-69. A crop of this size would be adequate to maintain current levels of grain reserves, to meet domestic needs for high-quality bread, and to relieve somewhat the meat shortage through the allocation of more grain to feed livestock. Moreover, a bumper crop of food grains should permit the Soviets to continue their role as a major supplier of grain to Eastern Europe, where a poor harvest is expected, and to clients in Asia and Africa.

25X1

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

6

SECRET

SECRET

BULGARIA: After long negotiations, the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), partially funded by the Ford Foundation, has concluded an agreement with Bulgaria, the last East European country having diplomatic relations with the US to sign such an accord.

The agreement, signed on 22 September by Bulgaria's Committee for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, provides for reciprocal exchanges of postgraduate students and scholars with the US for periods up to one year during the present and the following two academic years. The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences will nominate most of the Bulgarian participants-- a measure of Bulgaria's primary interest in greater exposure to Western scientific and technical education and expertise.

IREX, the successor to previous US exchange programs, reached agreements with the other East European countries in 1968. Bulgaria's reluctance to sign stemmed largely from the government's fear of the consequences of allowing its materially deprived people to come into increased contact with affluent Westerners.

Although signature of the IREX program represents a glimmer of improvement in US-Bulgarian relations, it probably does not foreshadow significant movement. Bulgaria has consistently insisted that improvement in cultural relations-- a major target of US policy with respect to Sofia-- must be accompanied by substantial gains in trade relations. The Bulgarians may cite the IREX agreement, even though it is unofficial in nature, to argue that it is now Washington's turn to be more forthcoming in the economic area. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

7

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COMMUNIST CHINA: The growing number of senior civilian bureaucrats who are returning to duty is another indication of Peking's steady progress in normalizing the staffing of central government organs.

Within the past week Peking has called attention to the renewed activities of three former vice ministers in the textile, agricultural machinery, and petroleum ministries, all of whom were in eclipse during the Cultural Revolution. Over the past few months approximately a dozen other veteran officials have been openly identified in their former, or similar, positions in either domestic or foreign affairs posts, and it seems likely that a process of turning back many day-to-day operational responsibilities to civilian experts is well under way.

This may also be true at the lower echelons because several recently received letters have indicated that a number of administrative and professional functionaries who had been shipped off to the rural areas for labor reform are now being recalled by Peking because of "work requirements."

At the top, however, most of China's ministries are still run by military commissions which assumed control during the Cultural Revolution. The crucial question as to whether military or civilian officials will continue to head up the ministries probably remains a subject of debate in regime councils, and the results are not likely to be known until Peking decides to convene the long-delayed National People's Congress.

25X1

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

8

SECRET

SECRET

COMMUNIST CHINA: Coal production may reach an all-time high this year.

The Chinese news service claimed that coal output increased by 24 percent in the first eight months of 1970 over the same period of 1969. If this rate of increase continues for the remainder of the year, production in 1970 could surpass the estimated 300 million tons produced in the peak year of 1959. More than 90 percent of the energy used by industry in China is derived from coal, and a sustained recovery of production would indicate a general rise in industrial production.

Press reports credit the increase in coal output to the fuller use of large mines and the re-emergence of production at small mines. Exports of coking coal remain at a very low level and local coal shortages still persist. The Chinese ascribe these shortages to a greatly increased demand. Other evidence suggests as the reason a sizable growth of major coal-consuming sectors, such as iron and steel, chemical, and electric power.

The quality of the coal, however, probably has deteriorated. The Chinese are again mining low-grade deposits south of the Yangtze and have built small mines throughout the country in their drive for regional self-sufficiency. The quality of coal from these mines is poor, and primitive accounting practices could lead to exaggeration of production claims. There is no evidence, moreover, that coal cleaning capacity at large mines has increased commensurate with the claimed growth in production. Also, the Chinese admit that normal maintenance and development practices have been disregarded in some mines in order to expand production, which could affect long-term growth of the industry.

25X1

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

9

SECRET

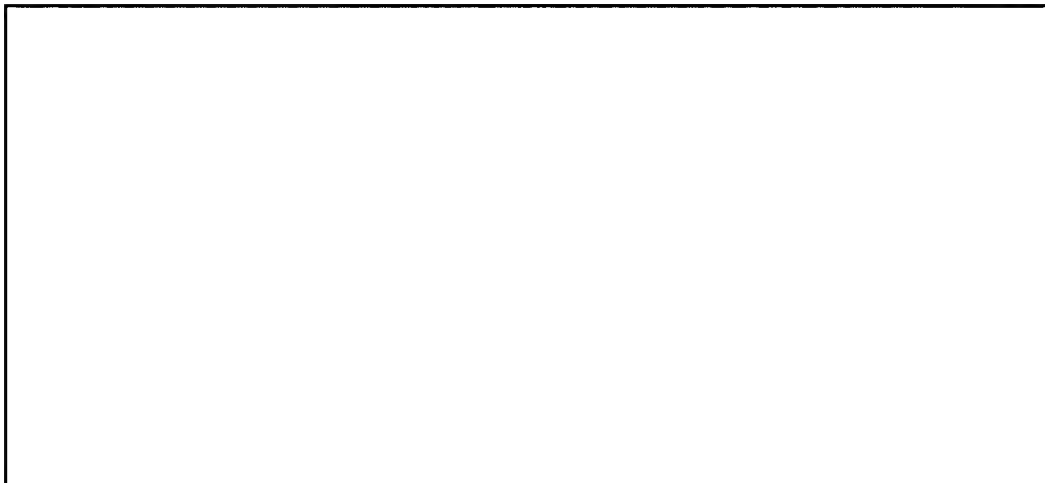
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LIBYA: Unrest among Libyan Army units in the province of Cyrenaica persists. [redacted]

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[redacted] officers and men are venting their discontent over government policies that they say lead to "adventurism abroad and economic stagnation at home." Rumors of a coup attempt have also been circulating. Leaders of the regime, including Prime Minister Qaddafi, reportedly spent much of the early part of September mending fences in the Benghazi area, a stronghold of antigovernment feeling where as many as 80 army, police, and civilian personnel have recently been arrested. [redacted]

25X1

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24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

11

SECRET

SECRET

BELGIUM: Preliminary soundings in Brussels indicate a strong Belgian desire to avoid as long as possible involvement in NATO burden-sharing plans. Stressing the high cost of maintaining Belgium's NATO forces in Germany, Finance Minister Snoy last week professed to Secretary Kennedy that he knew little about the burden-sharing problem. An adviser of Prime Minister Eyskens also indicated that the subject has not yet been discussed in the cabinet. Belgium's reluctance to spend for defense is reflected in the fact that its military budgets in recent years have been the equivalent of less than three percent of GNP, one of the smallest proportions among the NATO countries. Belgium has also been whittling down the size of its NATO force in the last two years. [REDACTED]

25X1

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INTERNATIONAL AVIATION: The US made no headway with its antihijacking proposal at a Tuesday meeting in Paris with eight Western countries that also are members of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council. These Western states continued to emphasize the adverse effect for their airlines of an air services boycott of countries harboring aerial hijackers who engage in international blackmail. The French refused to attend the meeting, and their absence--plus the very negative attitude of West Germany--obviously affected the willingness of the other participants to support the US proposal. If the US proposal is rejected when the council resumes next Tuesday, Canada is likely to promote its alternative initiative--a call for ICAO members to go through the time-consuming process of amending bilateral air agreements to cover hijack problems. [REDACTED]

25X1

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24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

12

SECRET

SECRET

WEST GERMANY: Top officials of the German Labor Federation (DGB) will hold a series of meetings of their organization--and with European Community and Belgian organs--in Brussels on 5-7 October. The purpose of these unprecedented meetings in Brussels is to underscore the DGB's fundamental commitment to Western Europe and the further building of the European Community. This move, doubtless stimulated in part by the Bonn government, also suggests the latter's awareness of a need to demonstrate that it is not neglecting Western Europe as it continues its efforts to normalize relations with the East. The opposition Christian Democrats have recently been calling for renewed emphasis on Bonn's West European ties as a counterbalance to Chancellor Brandt's Ostpolitik.



* * * *

COLOMBIA: Defeated presidential candidate Rojas Pinilla returned to Bogota without fanfare on 21 September after a two-and-a-half month absence for medical treatment in the US. Although Rojas is expected to remain under medical care for some time, his presence in the country will serve to reunify his National Popular Alliance (ANAPO), which has suffered serious divisions recently. Rojas probably will urge ANAPO to take a harsh line against the Pastrana government.



25X1

24 Sep 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

13

SECRET

Secret